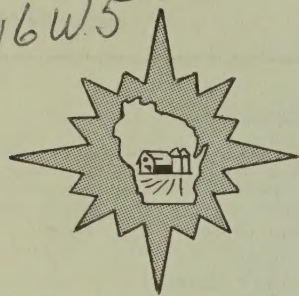


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# WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

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PROCUREMENT SECTION  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

## Cream of the News

Milk production on Wisconsin farms during April was 4 percent below a year ago, the 14th consecutive month that production was under the previous year.

Lower prices for crops and livestock resulted in a 5 percent decline in the prices received index for Wisconsin farm products from mid-March to mid-April.

Production of butter in the Nation during March continued below last year while output of cheese remained higher.

Income from milk sales in Wisconsin during 1973 totaled \$1.2 billion, an increase of 16 percent from 1972.

Although beef production in Wisconsin during March was down from a year earlier, total output of red meat was up 5 percent due to a higher production of pork.

Wisconsin farmers reported paying an average of \$27.60 in April for a feeder pig averaging 39 pounds, a decline of \$3.10 from January and the third successive quarter that feeder pig prices were lower.

Significant price declines for wholesale dairy products caused milk prices in Wisconsin to drop sharply after having shown increases for 13 straight months.

Stocks of meat and cheese in cold storage in the Nation at the end of April were well above a year ago but stocks of butter were down considerably.

Production of mink pelts in Wisconsin during 1973 was up 6 percent from 1972 as the State continued to lead the Nation in mink production by a wide margin.

Wholesale prices of Swiss and cheddar cheese at Wisconsin assembly points declined from March to April.

Wisconsin's 1974 maple syrup production totaled 80,000 gallons, only 4,000 gallons less than in 1973 and 17,000 gallons above 1972.

## MILK PRODUCTION CONTINUES LOWER

Milk production on Wisconsin farms during April totaled 1,640 million pounds, down 4 percent from a year ago and the 14th consecutive month that the State's milk production was below the previous year. Output of milk increased seasonally 1½ percent from March to April, slightly less than the 2 percent gain for those months in 1973. Production per cow in April averaged 915 pounds, down 25 pounds from a year earlier. For the first four months of 1974, milk production in Wisconsin was 3 percent under the comparable period last year.

The annual quantity of grain and other concentrates fed to Wisconsin milk cows during 1973 totaled 3,693,000 tons, a decline of 1 percent from the previous year. Dairymen in the State fed an average of 4,080 pounds of grain and concentrates per milk cow in 1973, only 10 pounds more than in 1972. The average value for 100 pounds of concentrate ration fed to milk cows was \$4.42 in 1973 compared with \$3.27 in 1972. Despite higher milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers during 1973, the milk-feed price ratio was lower than in 1972. This means that the value of the ration fed to milk cows increased more in 1973 than did milk prices.

Milk Production

Selected States	April 1973	April 1974	Jan.-April 1974	Change from last year	
				April	Jan.-April
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin . . . .	1,708	1,640	6,146	- 4	- 3
Minnesota . . .	890	901	3,477	+ 1	+ 1
Iowa . . . . .	367	315	1,210	- 14	- 14
New York . . .	890	871	3,277	- 2	- 3
Pennsylvania . .	593	586	2,209	- 1	- 2
California . . .	865	889	3,374	+ 3	+ 2
Other states . .	5,008	4,882	18,313	- 3	- 3
United States . .	10,321	10,084	38,006	- 2	- 3

The Nation's milk production of 10,084 million pounds in April was 2 percent below a year ago. Production per cow averaged 901 pounds for April, a small gain from the 899 pounds in April 1973. Output of milk in the Nation during the first four months of 1974 was 3 percent less than the

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corresponding period last year. Total grain and concentrates fed to milk cows during 1973 was about ½ percent below 1972. The average value of concentrate ration fed to milk cows in 1973 was \$4.88 per 100 pounds, an increase of \$1.36 from the previous year. Although milk prices in the Nation increased an average of \$1.06 a hundredweight in 1973, the greater increase in the value of the ration fed to milk cows resulted in 15 percent decline from 1972 for the milk-feed price ratio.

## MILK PRICES DOWN SHARPLY

Significant price declines for wholesale dairy products caused milk prices to drop sharply during April after having shown increases for 13 consecutive months. Wisconsin farmers are expected to receive an average of \$8.32 a hundredweight for all milk sold in April. This would be 39 cents below March but \$2.26 higher than April 1973.

Milk prices for March averaged \$8.71 a hundredweight, up 3 cents from February and \$2.68 above the previous year. Milkfat content averaged 3.72 percent compared with 3.71 percent in March 1973.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	February 1974		March price per cwt.			April 1974 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1973	1974	74/73 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin . . . . .	3.76	8.68	6.03	8.71	+ 44	8.32
Minnesota . . . . .	3.64	8.23	5.66	8.23	+ 45	8.17
Iowa . . . . .	3.77	8.68	5.87	8.61	+ 47	8.60
New York . . . . .	3.65	8.90	6.60	8.85	+ 34	8.70
California . . . . .	3.74	7.70	6.16	7.60	+ 23	8.45
United States . . .	3.74	8.92	6.55	8.94	+ 36	8.86
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk . . . .	3.78	8.82	6.14	8.88	+ 45	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.72	8.47	5.87	8.48	+ 44	xxx
Creameries . . . . .	3.70	8.42	5.79	8.42	+ 45	xxx
Cheese factories . .	3.72	8.47	5.88	8.48	+ 44	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.73	8.48	5.82	8.47	+ 46	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

## — PUBLISHED MONTHLY —

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Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	March 1973	February 1974	March 1974 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses . . . . .	5.69	8.08	8.19	+ 44
Market milk . . . . .	5.79	8.17	8.31	+ 44
Manufacturing milk . . . . .	5.54	7.97	8.02	+ 45
Creameries . . . . .	5.52	7.97	8.01	+ 45
American cheese plants . . . . .	5.56	7.96	8.02	+ 44
Varied products plants . . . . .	5.51	7.96	7.99	+ 45
Federal Order Markets Chicago Regional Base Zone . . .	6.07	8.67	8.74	+ 44

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

Producers for the Grade A market received an average of \$8.88 a hundredweight in March, an increase of 6 cents from February and \$2.74 more than a year earlier. Manufacturing grade milk averaged \$8.48 a hundredweight during March, up 1 cent from the previous month and \$2.61 above last year. The price spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 40 cents for March compared with 27 cents a year ago.

## WHOLESALE CHEESE PRICES DECLINE

Wholesale prices of Swiss and cheddar cheese at Wisconsin assembly points declined from March to April. Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 88.35 cents a pound during April, a drop of nearly 3 cents from the previous month. This was the first decline in wholesale prices of cheddar cheese since September 1972. The average for April was almost 23 cents higher than a year ago.

Block Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged over \$1.08 a pound for April but this was a decline of more than 1 cent from March. The April wholesale Swiss cheese price was nearly 27 cents above last year.

Wholesale prices of 92-score butter averaged 69.88 cents a pound for April, just slightly higher than March but 7½ cents more than April 1973.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	April 1973	March 1974	April 1974 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . . .	62.39¢	69.81¢	69.88¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/ . . .	65.75¢	91.25¢	88.35¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/ . . . . .	81.50¢	109.50¢	108.25¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range . . . . .	\$8.65-10.10	\$11.30-11.87	\$ — — —
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound . . . . .	43.98¢	61.52¢	68.73¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

## VALUE OF MILK SALES UP 16 PERCENT IN 1973

Preliminary estimates show that cash receipts for milk sold by Wisconsin farmers totaled \$1.2 billion in 1973, an increase of 16 percent from 1972. Milk prices averaged \$6.70 a hundredweight for 1973 compared with \$5.55 in 1972. The total pounds of milk marketed by Wisconsin farmers during 1973 was down 4 percent from a year earlier.



Of the 18,442 million pounds of milk produced on Wisconsin farms in 1973, farmers marketed 97 percent and kept 3 percent for use on their farms. Milk production during 1973 was below the previous year for all months except January. The annual average production per cow for 1973 was 10,189 pounds down 3 percent from 1972 and the first

time since 1952 that production per cow did not increase.

Since 1955, cash receipts from milk sales have more than doubled. While marketings of milk increased 16 percent from 1955 to 1973, the average price received for milk rose from \$3.23 to \$6.70 a hundredweight.

#### Disposition and Sales of Milk Produced, Wisconsin, 1955-73

Year	Total milk production	Milk fed or consumed on farms where produced				Milk sold from farms				
		Fed to calves	Consumed in the farm household		Total	To plants and dealers		Direct to consumers	Total	Value of sales
			As milk and cream	As farm butter		As cream	As milk			
		Million pounds								1,000 dollars
1955 . . . .	16,482	626	388	9	1,023	130	15,294	35	15,459	499,996
1956 . . . .	16,922	626	379	9	1,014	100	15,773	35	15,908	535,392
1957 . . . .	17,433	604	355	9	968	90	16,345	30	16,465	557,428
1958 . . . .	17,956	594	349	7	950	50	16,926	30	17,006	557,478
1959 . . . .	17,815	577	335	6	918	50	16,817	30	16,897	555,615
1960 . . . .	17,780	545	320	5	870	40	16,840	30	16,910	588,459
1961 . . . .	17,931	515	302	4	821	30	17,050	30	17,110	609,158
1962 . . . .	18,598	490	286	3	779	20	17,770	29	17,819	609,297
1963 . . . .	18,597	475	277	2	754	14	17,800	29	17,843	610,199
1964 . . . .	19,358	460	267	2	729	10	18,590	29	18,629	646,243
1965 . . . .	18,841	445	257	1	703	9	18,100	29	18,138	645,514
1966 . . . .	18,052	430	240	1	671	5	17,350	26	17,381	741,953
1967 . . . .	18,219	415	229	1	658 1/	5	17,530	26	17,561	763,812
1968 . . . .	18,210	400	209	—	609	5	17,570	26	17,601	807,717
1969 . . . .	18,051	384	210	—	594	2	17,430	25	17,457	851,741
1970 . . . .	18,435	383	196	—	579	1	17,830	25	17,856	915,774
1971 . . . .	18,848	386	182	—	568	—	18,260	20	18,280	970,059
1972 . . . .	19,226	381	181	—	562	—	18,645	19	18,664	1,035,142
1973* . . . .	18,442	376	178	—	554	—	17,870	18	17,888	1,197,763

\*Preliminary. 1/Includes some milk used for other purposes on farms or not utilized.

### CHEESE STOCKS CONTINUE HIGH

Total stocks of cheese in the Nation's cold storage facilities at the end of April were 59 percent higher than a year ago. Of the 481 million pounds of cheese in cold storage, American cheese accounted for 401 million pounds. Stocks of American cheese were up 62 percent from April 30, 1973. Swiss cheese stocks showed a gain of 70 percent and all other cheese increased 37 percent.

The Nation's butter stocks in cold storage on April 30 were down 38 percent from a year earlier. There were 78 million pounds of butter in cold storage at the end of April compared with 125 million pounds on that date last year.

#### Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	April 30, 1972	April 30, 1973	April 30, 1974	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				Percent
UNITED STATES				
Butter . . . . .	128,524	125,074	77,797	- 38
Cheese, American . . . . .	246,380	247,313	401,417	+ 62
Cheese, Swiss . . . . .	7,766	9,565	16,264	+ 70
Cheese, all other . . . . .	57,565	46,547	63,763	+ 37
Cheese, total . . . . .	311,711	303,425	481,444	+ 59
WISCONSIN				
Butter . . . . .	5,621	8,093	3,362	- 58
Cheese, American . . . . .	141,546	161,075	231,725	+ 44
GOVERNMENT STOCKS*				
Butter . . . . .	95,644	103,565	6,791	- 93
Cheese, American . . . . .	649	129	445	+ 245

\*Included in above totals.

### Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products United States

Commodity	March 31, 1972	March 31, 1973	March 31, 1974	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				Percent
Dried whole milk . . . . .	4,297	3,386	8,242	+ 143
Dried skim milk . . . . .	62,989	39,876	60,444	+ 52
Dried buttermilk . . . . .	4,125	4,537	5,767	+ 27
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ . .	61,176	35,622	62,157	+ 74

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

The Government held only 7 million pounds of butter in cold storage on April 30, well below the 104 million pounds a year ago.

### BUTTER PRODUCTION DOWN 15 PERCENT IN MARCH

Production of butter in the Nation during March was 15 percent under a year ago. Butter production for the Nation has been below the previous year since February 1972. Although Minnesota creameries churned 11 percent more butter in March than a year earlier, output was down 16 percent in Wisconsin, 54 percent in Iowa, and 20 percent in all other states.

Production of American cheese in the Nation during March was up 27 percent from last year. Dairy plants in Wisconsin increased production of American cheese 11 percent in March compared with a year ago. Minnesota's output of American cheese for March was 29 percent higher than in



March 1973, while Missouri was up 67 percent and all other states had a gain of 42 percent.

Total cheese production for the Nation during March was 19 percent above a year earlier. In addition to the 27 percent increase of American cheese, production of Italian cheese was up 11 percent and Swiss cheese output rose 7 percent. Brick and Muenster production declined 2 percent from March 1973 but all other cheese production remained about the same.

The Nation's production of cottage cheese curd during March was down 18 percent from the previous year while output of creamed cottage cheese declined 19 percent. Ice cream production in the Nation for March was 2 percent under last year.

#### Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	March 1973	March 1974	Jan. - March 1974	Change from last year	
				March	Jan.-Mar.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin . . . . .	18,370	15,470	46,270	- 16	- 11
Minnesota . . . . .	20,800	23,020	60,520	+ 11	+ 2
Iowa . . . . .	6,500	3,000	8,080	- 54	- 56
Other states . . . . .	44,976	35,903	112,083	- 20	- 21
United States . . . . .	90,646	77,393	226,953	- 15	- 16
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin . . . . .	66,350	73,800	201,550	+ 11	+ 13
Minnesota . . . . .	19,950	25,690	74,430	+ 29	+ 33
Missouri . . . . .	5,100	8,525	22,975	+ 67	+ 50
Other states . . . . .	51,268	72,958	188,689	+ 42	+ 38
United States . . . . .	142,668	180,973	487,644	+ 27	+ 26
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss . . . . .	15,599	16,719	43,710	+ 7	- 1
Brick and Muenster . . . . .	6,393	6,242	17,604	- 2	+ 1
Italian . . . . .	44,824	49,665	145,501	+ 11	+ 14
All other . . . . .	17,035	17,059	48,437	n. c.	+ 2
Total . . . . .	83,851	89,685	255,252	+ 7	+ 8
ALL CHEESE					
United States . . . . .	226,519	270,658	742,896	+ 19	+ 19
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/ . . . . .	74,161	61,139	171,830	- 18	- 16
Creamed 2/ . . . . .	94,678	76,492	215,847	- 19	- 18
	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin . . . . .	1,480	1,325	3,825	- 10	- 10
Illinois . . . . .	3,800	3,800	10,260	n. c.	- 4
Iowa . . . . .	750	800	1,840	+ 7	+ 4
Michigan . . . . .	3,400	3,228	8,470	- 5	- 5
Minnesota . . . . .	2,645	2,310	6,690	- 13	- 7
Other states . . . . .	54,883	54,239	145,769	- 1	n. c.
United States . . . . .	66,958	65,702	176,854	- 2	- 1

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

#### FARM PRODUCT PRICES SHOW CONSIDERABLE DECLINE

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all farm products sold during the month ending in mid-April were 5 percent under a month earlier. The index of prices received averaged 534 percent of the 1910-14 base as of April 15, down 30 points from March. Prices for almost all crop and livestock items declined from March to April.

Beef cattle prices averaged \$32.70 a hundredweight as of mid-April, down \$1.10 from the previous month and \$2.60 below last year. Steers and heifers, at \$36.90 a hundredweight in April, were \$1.20 lower than March and \$5.10 under April 1973. Slaughter cows averaged \$31.00 a hundred-

weight as of April 15, a decline of \$1.30 from March and \$1.70 below a year ago.

Hog prices averaged \$30.10 a hundredweight as of mid-April, down \$4.30 from the previous month and \$4.50 less than April 1973.

Calves brought an average of \$52.10 a hundredweight for April, a decline of \$1.20 from March and \$3.90 below a year earlier. Sheep averaged \$10.40 a hundredweight in mid-April, off \$1.50 from March but \$1.30 more than last year. Lambs countered the trend of lower livestock prices by increasing 30 cents from March to April. The mid-April average of \$35.30 a hundredweight for lambs was \$2.30 higher than April 1973.

Egg prices were sharply lower in April. The mid-month average of 48.6 cents a dozen was nearly 9 cents below March but above the 46 cents received in April 1973. Turkeys declined 3 cents a pound from March to April but at 32 cents a pound liveweight were 4 cents above a year ago.

Corn prices declined 27 cents a bushel from March to April. The mid-April average of \$2.48 a bushel was however \$1.16 higher than April 1973. Wheat prices were 75 cents lower in April than the previous month but at \$4.14 a bushel were more than double the \$1.97 average for April last year.

Oats dropped 18 cents from March to April. At \$1.27 a bushel on April 15, oats was 45 cents above a year ago. Soybeans averaged \$5.11 a bushel in April, down 63 cents from March and 94 cents below a year earlier.

Baled alfalfa hay declined \$1.00 from March to April but the average of \$34.00 a ton for mid-April was up \$1.50 from last year.

#### Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	April 15, 1972	April 15, 1973	March 15, 1974	April 15, 1974
		Dollars			
Milk cows . . . . .	Head	440.00	570.00	650.00	650.00
Steers and heifers . . . . .	Cwt.	30.50	42.00	38.10	36.90
Cows . . . . .	Cwt.	24.00	32.70	32.30	31.00
Calves . . . . .	Cwt.	47.00	56.00	53.30	52.10
Hogs . . . . .	Cwt.	22.50	34.60	34.40	30.10
Sheep . . . . .	Cwt.	5.80	9.10	11.90	10.40
Lambs . . . . .	Cwt.	27.30	33.00	35.00	35.30
Chickens 1/ . . . . .	Lb.	.090	.120	.145	.125
Turkeys . . . . .	Lb.	.210	.280	.350	.320
Eggs . . . . .	Doz.	.230	.460	.572	.486
Corn . . . . .	Bu.	1.15	1.32	2.75	2.48
Wheat . . . . .	Bu.	1.40	1.97	4.89	4.14
Oats . . . . .	Bu.	.70	.82	1.45	1.27
Soybeans . . . . .	Bu.	3.35	6.05	5.74	5.11
Alfalfa hay, baled . . . . .	Ton	23.00	32.50	35.00	34.00

1/Excludes broilers.

#### PORK PRODUCTION ABOVE LAST YEAR

Pork production in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during March was 21 percent higher than a year ago. The hog slaughter for March totaled 323,000 compared with 274,000 in March 1973. Average liveweight of hogs butchered in March was 245 pounds, 7 pounds heavier than the previous year.

Output of beef in Wisconsin during March was 6 percent lower than a year earlier. Cattle slaughter numbered 92,500, a decline of 9,500 from March 1973. Average liveweight of



cattle slaughtered in March was 1,170 pounds, up 46 pounds from last year.

Calf slaughter for March amounted to 20,400, nearly 3,000 more than a year ago. The average liveweight of calves butchered in March was 154 pounds, 17 pounds lighter than in March 1973. The sheep and lamb kill of 200 for March was double a year earlier.

With the increase in pork, veal, and lamb and mutton, total production of red meat in Wisconsin during March was 5 percent greater than the previous year.

#### Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	March		Change from last year	March	
	1973	1974		1973	1974
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin . . . . .	102.0	92.5	— 9	114.6	108.2
United States 1/ . .	2,884.1	2,872.1	n. c.	2,989.2	3,060.7
Calves					
Wisconsin . . . . .	17.5	20.4	+ 17	3.0	3.1
United States 1/ . .	224.8	212.5	— 5	54.5	47.7
Hogs					
Wisconsin . . . . .	274.0	323.0	+ 18	65.2	79.1
United States 1/ . .	7,036.0	6,943.2	— 1	1,665.3	1,695.5
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin . . . . .	.1	.2	+ 100	.009	.020
United States 1/ . .	736.9	790.9	+ 7	81.2	87.9

1/Excludes Alaska.

#### FEEDER PIG PRICES CONTINUE DOWNWARD

Wisconsin farmers reported paying an average of \$27.60 in April for a feeder pig averaging 39 pounds. This was \$3.10 under the January price and the third successive quarter that feeder pig prices have declined. Since reaching a record high of \$34.50 in July 1973, feeder pig prices in Wisconsin have gone down by nearly \$7.00 a head. The April average price was \$3.30 below a year ago and the first time that feeder pig prices were under the previous year since July 1971.

#### Wisconsin Feeder Pig Prices and Weights 1/

Year	January	April	July	October
Dollars per head				
1965 . . . . .	10.50	12.10	13.00	15.15
1966 . . . . .	20.65	20.00	16.60	16.30
1967 . . . . .	14.50	14.75	15.20	14.90
1968 . . . . .	13.70	15.40	15.10	15.20
1969 . . . . .	14.00	16.40	17.80	19.00
1970 . . . . .	21.50	24.50	18.80	12.60
1971 . . . . .	9.35	12.05	12.80	14.30
1972 . . . . .	18.50	21.70	23.30	23.50
1973 . . . . .	24.80	30.90	34.50	32.10
1974 . . . . .	30.70	27.60		
Pounds per head				
1965 . . . . .	42	40	40	40
1966 . . . . .	41	40	40	41
1967 . . . . .	42	41	41	41
1968 . . . . .	42	40	41	41
1969 . . . . .	41	41	41	41
1970 . . . . .	41	39	40	40
1971 . . . . .	41	40	40	41
1972 . . . . .	41	40	40	40
1973 . . . . .	41	40	40	40
1974 . . . . .	40	39		

1/Prices paid by farmers and weights are average for the month as reported by Wisconsin Crop Correspondents.

#### MEAT STOCKS WELL ABOVE LAST YEAR

Total stocks of meat in cold storage in the Nation at the end of April exceeded a billion pounds, up 46 percent from last year. Supplies of beef in cold storage on April 30 were 40 percent above a year earlier while pork stocks increased 59 percent.

#### Cold Storage Stocks of Meat United States

Commodity	April 30, 1972	April 30, 1973	March 31, 1974	April 30, 1974	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
Beef:					
Frozen . . . . .	272,837	350,218	471,911	493,136	+ 41
In cure and cured . . . . .	10,177	9,899	13,324	12,285	+ 24
Total . . . . .	283,014	360,117	485,235	505,421	+ 40
Pork:					
Frozen . . . . .	374,298	234,060	330,748	377,670	+ 61
In cooler . . . . .	21,488	14,388	19,902	17,370	+ 21
Total . . . . .	395,786	248,448	350,650	395,040	+ 59
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen . . . . .	8,939	13,223	14,246	14,461	+ 9
Lamb and mutton, frozen . . . . .	15,205	13,210	13,756	14,398	+ 9
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams . . . . .	94,128	54,739	78,350	83,160	+ 52
Other meats . . . . .	21,910	16,922	17,361	16,811	- 1
Total, all meats . . . . .	818,982	706,659	959,598	1,029,291	+ 46

#### MINK PRODUCTION UP A LITTLE IN 1973

The number of mink pelts produced in the Nation during 1973 totaled 3,037,000, an increase of more than 2 percent from 1972. This is the first increase in pelt production since mink estimates were started in 1969. Fifteen states accounted for 95 percent of the pelts produced, with five major states having 63 percent of the total. Wisconsin is the leading mink producing state.

Production of mink pelts in Wisconsin during 1973 totaled 918,000, an increase of 6 percent from a year earlier and more than twice as many as the next ranking state. The number of mink ranches in Wisconsin for 1973 remained at 322 while the Nation's mink ranches of 1,329 was 51 fewer than in 1972. Wisconsin mink raisers had 248,000 females bred to produce kits in 1974 compared with 252,000 in 1973.

#### Mink Production

State	Ranches Producing Pelts		Pelts Produced		Females Bred	
	1972	1973	1972	1973	1973	1974
	Number		1,000		1,000	
Wisconsin . . . . .	322	322	863	918	252	248
Minnesota . . . . .	162	157	421	417	130	121
Utah . . . . .	225	218	285	283	100	103
Washington . . . . .	64	64	142	144	40.0	42.5
Ohio . . . . .	66	57	126	126	39	38
Oregon . . . . .	60	55	144	160	41	43
Illinois . . . . .	43	39	146	146	40.5	42.5
Michigan . . . . .	47	45	130	125	35	35
New York . . . . .	56	51	110	123	33	31
Pennsylvania . . . . .	57	59	107	109	37.5	38.6
Idaho . . . . .	47	47	112	122	38.5	45.5
Iowa . . . . .	62	60	111	106	33.5	39
South Dakota . . . . .	14	12	62	63.5	17.5	16
Indiana . . . . .	17	16	32	33.5	9	8.5
Massachusetts . . . . .	18	18	26	24	6	6.5
All other states . . . . .	120	109	148	137	49	47
United States . . . . .	1,380	1,329	2,965	3,037	902	905



## Milk Cows, Production per Cow, and Total Milk Production, Wisconsin By Counties, 1971-73

County	1971			1972			1973 1/			
	Number of cows 2/	Milk per cow	Total production	Number of cows 2/	Milk per cow	Total production	Number of cows 2/	Milk per cow	Production	
	Number	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Rank
Barron	47,000	10,200	479,400	47,900	10,300	493,370	47,800	9,900	473,220	11
Bayfield	6,000	9,900	59,400	6,100	9,900	60,390	5,900	9,700	57,230	60
Burnett	7,100	9,800	69,580	7,200	9,800	70,560	7,100	9,400	66,740	59
Chippewa	48,600	10,100	490,860	50,000	10,200	510,000	49,900	10,000	499,000	8
Douglas	3,000	9,800	29,400	3,000	9,700	29,100	2,700	9,400	25,380	65
Polk	34,000	10,200	346,800	34,700	10,300	357,410	34,600	10,100	349,460	22
Rusk	19,300	9,200	177,560	19,400	9,300	180,420	19,300	9,000	173,700	43
Sawyer	3,800	9,600	36,480	3,800	9,700	36,860	3,700	9,500	35,150	63
Washburn	6,000	9,700	58,200	6,000	9,700	58,200	5,900	9,600	56,640	61
Northwest District	174,800	9,998	1,747,680	178,100	10,086	1,796,310	176,900	9,816	1,736,520	
Ashland	4,200	9,500	39,900	4,200	9,800	41,160	3,800	9,500	36,100	62
Clark	67,200	10,300	692,160	67,200	10,400	698,880	66,800	10,200	681,360	3
Iron	800	9,400	7,520	900	9,600	8,640	800	9,300	7,440	68
Lincoln	12,000	9,800	117,600	11,900	9,800	116,620	11,500	9,400	108,100	52
Marathon	85,900	10,300	884,770	85,900	10,400	893,360	84,200	10,200	858,840	1
Oneida	800	9,000	7,200	800	9,200	7,360	500	9,000	4,500	69
Price	10,400	8,900	92,560	10,400	9,200	95,680	9,700	8,900	86,330	56
Taylor	29,800	10,000	298,000	30,000	10,200	306,000	29,700	9,900	294,030	29
Vilas	200	8,800	1,760	200	9,000	1,800	100	8,700	870	71
North Central District	211,300	10,135	2,141,470	211,500	10,258	2,169,500	207,100	10,032	2,077,570	
Florence	1,200	9,800	11,760	1,200	10,100	12,120	1,000	9,900	9,900	67
Forest	1,900	8,900	16,910	1,900	9,200	17,480	1,700	9,000	15,300	66
Langlade	13,000	9,600	124,800	13,100	9,900	129,690	12,600	9,800	123,480	50
Marinette	13,300	9,600	127,680	13,800	9,700	133,860	13,400	9,500	127,300	48
Menominee										
Oconto	29,200	9,900	289,080	29,600	10,000	296,000	29,400	9,700	285,180	30
Shawano 3/	45,500	10,500	477,750	46,000	10,700	492,200	45,800	10,500	480,900	10
Northeast District	104,100	10,067	1,047,980	105,600	10,240	1,081,350	103,900	10,029	1,042,060	
Buffalo	26,900	10,000	269,000	27,200	10,100	274,720	27,300	9,800	267,540	33
Dunn	39,900	10,000	399,000	40,700	10,200	415,140	40,700	10,000	407,000	15
Eau Claire	22,000	9,600	211,200	22,400	9,900	221,760	22,400	9,600	215,040	39
Jackson	18,300	9,700	177,510	18,800	9,800	184,240	18,600	9,700	180,420	42
La Crosse	21,300	10,100	215,130	21,400	10,200	218,280	21,400	10,000	214,000	40
Monroe	36,300	9,500	344,850	37,000	9,800	362,600	36,900	9,500	350,550	21
Pepin	9,500	9,900	94,050	9,900	10,100	99,990	9,900	9,900	98,010	54
Pierce	26,100	10,200	266,220	26,000	10,500	273,000	26,100	10,400	271,440	32
St. Croix	34,600	10,500	363,300	35,000	10,700	374,500	34,900	10,400	362,960	19
Trempealeau	34,800	10,200	354,960	35,000	10,300	360,500	35,000	10,200	357,000	20
West Central District	269,700	9,993	2,695,220	273,400	10,186	2,784,730	273,200	9,971	2,723,960	
Adams	3,600	9,900	35,640	3,500	10,000	35,000	3,500	9,900	34,650	64
Green Lake	14,000	10,400	145,600	14,600	10,600	154,760	14,500	10,500	152,250	46
Juneau	12,400	9,700	120,280	12,800	10,100	129,280	12,700	9,900	125,730	49
Marquette	6,900	9,800	67,620	7,000	9,900	69,300	6,900	9,700	66,930	58
Portage	17,000	9,800	166,600	16,800	10,200	171,360	16,700	10,000	167,000	44
Waupaca	32,400	10,200	330,480	32,700	10,300	336,810	32,600	9,900	322,740	26
Waushara	12,200	10,100	123,220	12,000	10,400	124,800	11,900	10,100	120,190	51
Wood	25,100	9,900	248,490	25,000	10,100	252,500	24,900	9,700	241,530	38
Central District	123,600	10,016	1,237,930	124,400	10,240	1,273,810	123,700	9,952	1,231,020	
Brown	39,300	11,000	432,300	38,900	11,000	427,900	38,600	10,500	405,300	16
Calumet	30,100	11,000	331,100	31,000	11,200	347,200	30,700	10,800	331,560	24
Door	16,500	10,600	174,900	16,300	10,800	176,040	16,200	10,200	165,240	45
Fond du Lac	49,600	11,100	550,560	49,800	11,300	562,740	49,700	10,800	536,760	5
Kewaunee	29,900	10,400	310,960	30,400	10,500	319,200	30,000	10,100	303,000	28
Manitowoc	43,800	10,900	477,420	44,600	11,100	495,060	44,200	10,700	472,940	12
Outagamie	45,200	11,100	501,720	45,600	11,100	506,160	45,500	10,600	482,300	9
Sheboygan	32,600	10,900	355,340	33,000	10,900	359,700	32,600	10,500	342,300	23
Winnebago	24,500	11,000	269,500	24,500	11,300	276,850	24,100	10,800	260,280	35
East Central District	311,500	10,927	3,403,800	314,100	11,050	3,470,850	311,600	10,589	3,299,680	
Crawford	19,900	9,600	191,040	19,700	9,600	189,120	19,300	9,400	181,420	41
Grant	54,600	10,100	551,460	55,200	10,200	563,040	55,000	9,700	533,500	6
Iowa	38,400	10,100	387,840	38,200	10,200	389,640	37,300	9,800	365,540	18
Lafayette	42,200	10,000	422,000	42,400	10,300	436,720	41,400	9,900	409,860	14
Richland	28,500	9,900	282,150	28,300	10,000	283,000	27,500	9,700	266,750	34
Sauk	37,700	10,400	392,080	38,100	10,600	403,860	37,700	10,300	388,310	17
Vernon	45,700	9,300	425,010	45,900	9,500	436,050	44,800	9,300	416,640	13
Southwest District	267,000	9,931	2,651,580	267,800	10,087	2,701,430	263,000	9,742	2,562,020	
Columbia	23,900	11,100	265,290	23,600	11,200	264,320	23,400	10,900	255,060	36
Dane	68,800	11,000	756,800	68,300	11,200	764,960	67,500	10,900	735,750	2
Dodge	62,600	10,900	682,340	62,400	11,200	698,880	62,000	10,800	669,600	4
Green	48,800	10,800	527,040	48,400	11,000	532,400	48,100	10,700	514,670	7
Jefferson	30,500	10,800	329,400	30,700	11,000	337,700	30,200	10,800	326,160	25
Rock	30,800	10,900	335,720	30,300	10,900	330,270	30,000	10,600	318,000	27
South Central District	265,400	10,914	2,896,590	263,700	11,106	2,928,530	261,200	10,793	2,819,240	
Kenosha	10,000	11,000	110,000	9,500	11,200	106,400	9,000	10,700	96,300	55
Milwaukee	500	10,000	5,000	400	10,200	4,080	400	10,000	4,000	70
Ozaukee	11,100	10,300	114,330	10,500	10,500	110,250	10,400	10,100	105,040	53
Racine	8,500	11,100	94,350	8,000	11,300	90,400	7,900	10,900	86,110	57
Walworth	25,500	11,100	283,050	25,700	11,400	292,980	25,200	10,900	274,680	31
Washington	23,800	10,900	259,420	23,500	11,000	258,500	23,000	10,700	246,100	37
Waukesha	15,200	10,500	159,600	14,800	10,600	156,880	13,500	10,200	137,700	47
Southeast District	94,600	10,843	1,025,750	92,400	11,033	1,019,490	89,400	10,626	949,930	
STATE	1,822,000	10,345	18,848,000	1,831,000	10,500	19,226,000	1,810,000	10,189	18,442,000	

1/Preliminary. 2/Average number of milk cows on farms during year, excluding heifers not yet fresh. 3/Includes Menominee.



## MAY CROP REPORT

Cold and wet weather in the second and third weeks of May slowed planting and development of crops in Wisconsin. Favorable weather in late April and early May enabled farmers to complete most of the seeding of oats and get a good start on corn planting. Heavy rains and cold soil temperatures then delayed planting and impeded crop progress. By May 20th about 25 percent of the corn had been planted compared with 30 percent last year and the past ten years. There were reports of corn not germinating properly in the cold, wet soils. Growing degrees days were running about 25 percent behind normal as of May 20th.

Spring plowing was 75 percent finished on May 20th, which was ahead of last year's 60 percent but equal to a normal progress. A lot of land was plowed up last fall and this spring in anticipation of an increased crop acreage, particularly for corn. The extreme north had some oats to sow yet but other areas were done. Early oats was doing good except for a yellow color where it received too much water. Late oats had problems germinating in cold, damp soils. Only a few soybeans were planted by May 20th.

Rainfall in Inches, by Districts, Wisconsin

District	Month of April		
	1973	1974	Normal
Northwest . . . . .	1.7	3.3	2.4
North Central . . . . .	2.8	4.0	2.4
Northeast . . . . .	4.1	3.2	2.5
West Central . . . . .	4.8	2.8	2.6
Central . . . . .	5.2	2.6	2.8
East Central . . . . .	3.7	3.1	2.6
Southwest . . . . .	6.9	3.2	2.8
South Central . . . . .	6.9	4.1	2.7
Southeast . . . . .	6.6	3.8	2.7

Hay was doing well with all the moisture. The outlook was promising for a heavy first crop as alfalfa fields looked the best in three years. Pastures were slow developing due to the cold temperatures. The lack of sunshine and warm temperatures was holding back gardens and vegetable crops. Growth of tobacco beds also was slowed by cold, wet weather. Planting of potatoes continued in the north. Apple trees were in bloom. Frost in the second week of May hurt some cherry trees. Soil moisture as of May 20th was reported as 50 percent adequate and 50 percent surplus, with most of the surpluses in the south and east.

## INCREASE IN CHEESE PRODUCTION SLOWS WHILE DROP IN BUTTER OUTPUT EASES

Weekly estimates of butter and cheese production for April indicate that the decline in output of butter was not as steep as in previous months, while the increase in cheese production has lessened. Churnings of butter in the Nation during April could be 7 percent under a year ago after declining 16 percent from January through March. Wisconsin's butter production in April will be under last year but not as much as the 11 percent decline shown in the first quarter of 1974.

Production of American cheese in the Nation during April could be up 16 percent from the previous year. Output in the first quarter of this year was 26 percent greater than in

that period last year. Wisconsin's production of American cheese in April will be above a year ago but the increase will not match the 13 percent gain for January through March.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1974	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1974	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
March . . . .	77,393	- 15	- 16	180,973	+ 27	+ 11
Jan.-March .	226,953	- 16	- 11	487,644	+ 26	+ 13
Weeks ending						
April 4 . . .	18,800	- 12	- 9	41,450	+ 21	+ 7
April 11 . .	19,330	- 8	- 7	42,280	+ 25	+ 15
April 18 . .	20,700	- 5	- 2	41,430	+ 16	+ 8
April 25 . .	21,000	- 7	- 1	40,600	+ 11	+ 3
May 2 . . .	21,650	- 4	+ 10	40,430	+ 10	n. c.
Total . . . .	101,480	- 7	xxx	206,190	+ 16	xxx

## WISCONSIN'S MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION DOWN SLIGHTLY IN 1974

Wisconsin's 1974 production of maple syrup totaled 80,000 gallons. This was 4,000 gallons less than in 1973 but 17,000 above 1972. Most producers tapped trees early in March and had a short run with a week of warm weather. Colder weather the last three weeks of March over much of the State brought activity to a stop. A period of intermittent sap runs during favorable weather in the first three weeks of April resulted in a better than average total production for the year. The season opened early on March 5th and closed later than usual on April 27th. Sweetness of the sap this year was less than normal and required 42 gallons of sap to produce a gallon of syrup. There were more trees tapped this year than in 1973. The maple syrup produced was medium in color and of good table quality.

Maple Syrup  
Wisconsin and Other Leading States

State	Production		
	1972	1973	1974 1/
	1,000 gallons		
Maine . . . . .	8	8	6
New Hampshire . . . . .	51	48	53
Vermont . . . . .	335	323	323
Massachusetts . . . . .	28	20	25
New York . . . . .	340	225	326
Pennsylvania . . . . .	96	48	77
Ohio . . . . .	95	35	88
Michigan . . . . .	83	66	98
WISCONSIN . . . . .	63	84	80
United States . . . . .	1,099	857	1,076

1/Preliminary.

## BEEF CATTLE PRICES LOWER

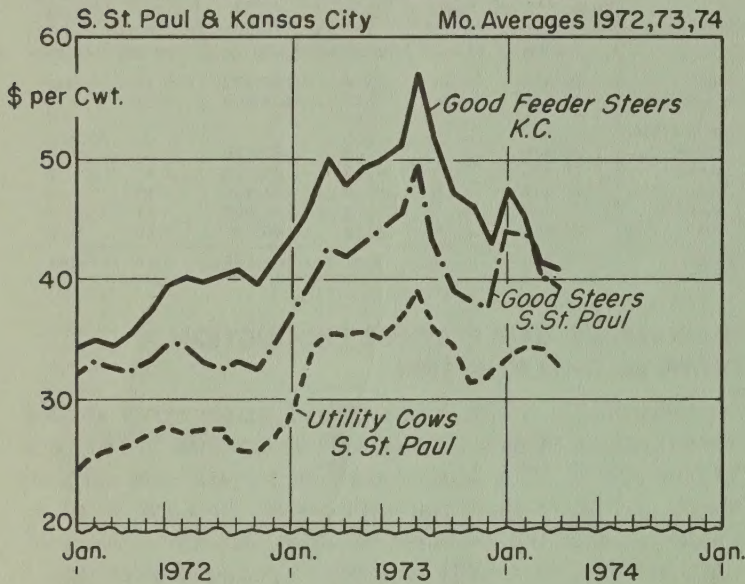
Prices of good grade fed steers at St. Paul and feeder steers at Kansas City declined from March to April as did the utility cow price at St. Paul. Good grade steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$39.57 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market during April, a decline of 66 cents from March and \$2.59 below a year earlier. Utility cows at St. Paul averaged \$32.80 a hundredweight for April, down



\$1.26 from the previous month and \$2.91 less than in April 1973.

Good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged, \$41.03 a hundredweight at the Kansas City market in April. This was 75 cents under March and considerably below the \$48.00 for April last year.

### BEEF CATTLE PRICES

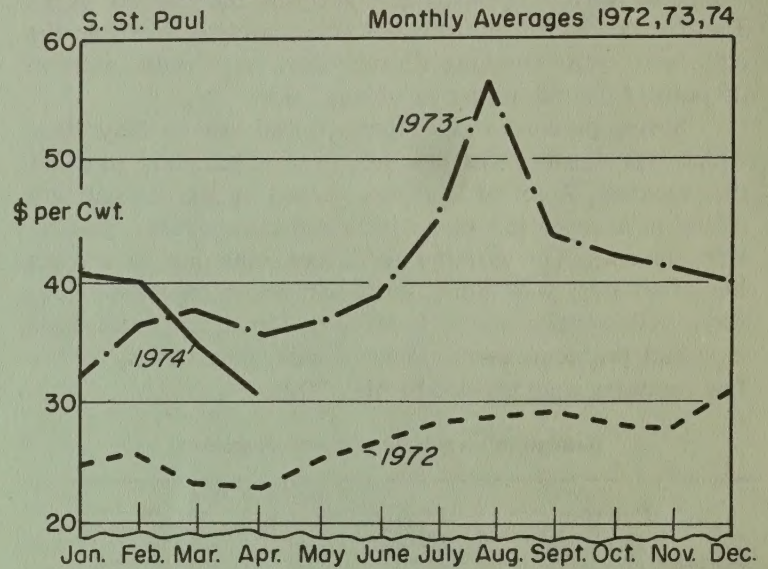


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### BARROWS AND GILTS DOWN NEARLY \$4.00

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market declined by nearly \$4.00 from March to April. Barrows and gilts averaged \$30.83 a hundredweight in April compared with \$34.75 in March and \$35.70 for April 1973.

### BARROW and GILT PRICES



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